

From: mmcweeney
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/20/01 8:19am
Subject: Comments on Antitrust for Federal Register

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to voice my concerns at the haste at which the Antitrust case against Microsoft is being reached. I believe there are superior alternatives to Microsoft products available, but believe the penalties proposed will not allow the companies and individuals who comprise the computer community to benefit from these.

Specifically, I have found it close to impossible to purchase a desktop or laptop computer for my own personal use, without having Microsoft Windows included in the price. In other words as a consumer, I was forced to buy a product I neither required nor wanted. This is an unacceptable situation.

Those engaging in this practice include virtually all the major computer manufacturers, and almost all retail outlets. On enquiring why this is the case, most informed me that they were prevented from shipping the computer alone (without bundled Microsoft software) because of agreements with Microsoft. As such, these same companies would not quote me for a software-free machine.

Microsoft should not be allowed to yield profits from those who want to use their products. By imposing penalties which prevent these agreements, the Department of Justice has the opportunity to:

- 1: Prevent Microsoft from dubbing closed proprietary file formats and other technologies as "Industry standards", thereby improving interoperability.
 - 2: Allow true competition which will benefit the entire computer community in terms of software quality and security.
 - 3: Facilitate the public by allowing them to choose software on merit.
 - 4: Eliminate the scourge of viruses which are almost non-existent outside the realms of Microsoft, but as Code Red and Nimda showed, could potentially grind the internet to a halt for everybody. It's everybody's internet.
- Please protect it.

I sincerely hope that the Dept. of Justice will be mindful of this and impose meaningful penalties which will undo past damage, and improve future competition.

Yours faithfully

Mel McWeeney

Mr. Mel McWeeney,
I.T. Consultant,

136 Teffia Park,
Longford,
Rep. of Ireland.